

Be Bold!

Pastor Joseph Clark – October 30, 2020

“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

- Proverbs 28:1

“Oh, how great peace and quietness would he possess who should cut off all vain anxiety and place all his confidence in God.”

- Thomas à Kempis

I was walking down the street last Wednesday and I came across a homeless man. He looked to be around 60 years of age, gaunt, filthy, greasy, smelling of urine and alcohol. A child of God, no more nor less than the rest of us. A brother in need. In front of him was a Tim Horton’s cup with some change which people had given him as they passed by. Beside him was a medium-sized dog which faithfully sat beside him, panting in the sun.

I went into the Pizza Pizza beside where he sat, and I bought myself a slice of pizza and an iced tea for lunch. I bought a second slice and an iced tea for the homeless man and I exited the store and handed it to him. He thanked me. I said “God is good and that is from Him. God bless you.” And I went to my office to eat my lunch, feeling pretty good about myself. I was charitable. I included God in the exchange. My good deed for the day.

The next day I walked down that same street and I saw him again. This time, I stopped and asked him where he was from. He told me, and we began a ten-minute conversation. His name was Glenn. His dog’s name was Jube Jube. I bought him some more food and this time I preached The Word in the form of sharing how I came to Jesus Christ and was saved. I witnessed to him. Glenn told me that he did not believe in God, but rather, he believed in science. We had a little light debate about that. My position was that science simply uncovers the evidence of God’s recipe. But I did not press too hard for fear that I would upset Glenn or for fear that it would push him further away from The Word.

I was tempted to finish by praying for him right there, but his body language told me that he was becoming anxious. So, I once again said “God bless you, Glenn”, and I said goodbye.

But this time, I did not feel good about myself. Why do you think that was?

Because I was timid when preaching The Word! I was timid when sharing my story of how I came to Christ. I was timid because I did not want to be accused by passers-by of being a religious fanatic. I was timid because I did not want to be politically incorrect with Glenn. I was timid for fear of his reaction.

And I thought to myself. Was Christ timid in His ministry? Were the Apostles and the Martyr’s timid when preaching The Word?

Paul preached in Damascus in the synagogue! He debated with the Hebrews at the temple until his life was in danger. He had to be smuggled out of the city by his followers. They lowered him out of a hole in the wall in a basket in the middle of the night. It is written of Paul in Acts 9:27 “So Saul stayed with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, and speaking boldly in the name of the Lord....” Boldly! In the name of the Lord!

Not timid. Bold! How can we possibly be timid when speaking in the name of the Lord!

The Holy Spirit tells us in The Word:

“Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

- Acts 28:1

“In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”

- Ephesians 3:12

“Since we have such a hope, we are very bold,”

- 2 Corinthian 3:12

“Have I not commanded you? ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.’”

- Joshua 1:9

“Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required....”

- Philemon 1:8

When we speak of our favorite television show, our favorite musician, or the latest movie about which we are thrilled, we speak boldly. We speak with enthusiasm and boldness when we speak of these things on a bus. We speak boldly of these things when in a plane, or in the subway, or at a party, or at the water cooler at work.

But how boldly do we preach The Word or talk about our Lord and Saviour? I spoke timidly about Jesus Christ to a homeless man! I was not in front of an audience! I was not in a subway, or a bus, or a plane, or at a party, or in the office. I was speaking to a lone man with his dog, and I was timid.

It is our obligation to speak The Word. It is our obligation to save our brothers and sisters. Not by being timid, but by being bold.

So how do we “be bold!”?

Firstly, it starts with God.

2 Timothy 3:16 states, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”

To be bold we must not preach by our own power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit! Like any challenge, we must give it up to God and accept that He works through us.

Secondly, we must be Gospel literate. 2 Peter 1:5 states “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,” We must invest time in The Word and know The Word and apply The Word, and speak The Word.

Thirdly, we must be courageous. My father used to tell me that John Wayne was quoted as saying that courage is not about being scared. It is about being scared as can be and saddling up anyway.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was fearful of dying. Luke 22:42-44 tell us that Jesus was so fearful of His own imminent Death that He prayed “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. He could have run! He could have fled that night, but He did not. He was terrified. He was so fearful that He sweated drops of blood. But He courageously remained. My brothers and sisters, we must be courageous in preaching The Word.

Fourthly, we must be faithful. We must be so full of faith and certain in what we are saying that it is deliberate, and obvious, and passionate, and convincing. We must be so bold and passionate that it becomes contagious. That others are moved by the Holy Spirit acting in us and by the state of Grace that they see us in.

“Fight the good fight of faith, and God will give you spiritual mercies.”

- George Whitefield

“A minister, without boldness, is like a smooth file, a knife without an edge, a sentinel that is afraid to let off his gun. If men will be bold in sin, ministers must be bold to reprove.”

- William Gurnall

“His voice leads us not into timid discipleship but into bold witness.”

- Charles Stanley

Jesus Christ was humiliated, and tortured, and killed for us. Can we not be politically incorrect for Him? Can we not be bold for Him? Can we not be passionate for Him? Can we not be deliberate for Him? Can we not be courageous for Him?

Brothers and Sisters let us be bold and preach The Word. When you speak of your faith, when you speak of God, be bold!

Let us pray to our Heavenly Father, to equip us with boldness in His service. For the courage and knowledge to preach His word and save our brothers and sisters in need. To equip us with the tools and talents that His ministry is deserving of, so that we can boldly share His Good News. In Jesus Christ we pray! Amen.

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